

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 04662 091410Z

46

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 OIC-02 OMB-01

AID-05 TRSE-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 MCT-01 SSM-03 /099 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9012

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY VEINNA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4662

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAID/UNRWA,,JO,US

SUBJECT: ADCOM UNRWA MEETING IN AMMAN

REF: AMMAN 4520(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FIRST AMMAN LOCATED UNRWA ADCOM MEETING WENT SMOOTHLY.

HIGHLIGHT OF MEETING WAS ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL US PLEDGE

OF \$6 MILLION, BUT COMGEN SAID THIS WOULD POSTPONE

BUDGET CRISIS ONLY TO MID-NOVEMBER. ALTHOUGH PLO CAUCUSED

WITH ARAB DELEGATES IN DAYS PRIOR TO ADCOM MEETING THEY MADE NO

ATTEMPT TO ATTEND ADCOM MEETING ITSELF. END SUMMARY

1. UNRWA ADCOM MET THIS YEAR IN AMAN 9 SEPTEMBER

FOR ANNUAL CONSIDERATION OF COMMISSIONER GENERALS DRAFT REPORT.

DELEGATIONS WERE COMPOSED OF ADCOM MEMBER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

IN AMMAN EXCEPT FOR EGYPTIANS WHO SENT FROM CAIRO MUSTAFA ABDUL

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 04662 091410Z

HAMID AND ABBAS ALI ABBAS OF MINISTER OF FOR AFFAIRS DEPT OF

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS AND SYRIANS WHO SENT AMHAD HADID DIRGEN OF GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR PALESTIAN REFUGEES. JORDANIAN DELEGATION COMPOSED OF OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTIONS THAT DEALS WITH PALESTINE REFUGEE MATTERS.

2. COMGEN SIR JOHN RENE OPENED MEETING WITH RESUMEOF DRAFT REPORT (BEING POUCHED ADDEES) HE WELCOMED PLED OF 6 M DOLLARS ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION WHICH US DELEGATIONS ANNOUNCED AT MEETING AND SAID THAT BROUGHT DEFICIT DOWN TO TWENTY ONE AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS THUS ENABLING UNRWA TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS FOR ANOTHER MONTH MOREOVER HE SAID UNLESS MORE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE SOON UNRWA WILL HAVE TO BEGIN GIVING SEPARATION NOTICES TO LOCAL STAFF IN EARLY OCTOBER. AS SIR JOHNS REPORT STATES REQUIREMENT TO PAY SEPARATION BENEFITS TO LOCAL EMPLOYEES IF THEIR EMPLOYMENT TERMINATED CREATES STANDING DEMAND ON UNRWAS ASSETS AND THAT CURRENTLY TIES UP TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS OF UNRWA FUNDS WHICH OTHERWISE MIGHT BE USED FOR PROGRAMS. HIS REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT PROBLEM MIGHT BE SOLVED "IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WERE PREPARED TO EASE THE BURDEN OF UNRWAS ASSETS EITHER BY APPROVING A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UN BUDGET TO INCREASE UNRWAS WORKING CAPITAL OR BY AGREEING TO ADVANCE TO ACCEPT A CONTINGENCY LIABILITY AGAINST THE UN BUDGET FOR SEPARATION BENEFITS FOR UNRWAS LOCAL STAFF IN THE EVENT OF LIQUIDATION OF THE AGENCY". HE ALSO PROPOSED IN ORAL REMARKS AT ADCOM MEETING THAT SOLUTION OF ANNUAL BUDGET DEFICIT MIGHT BE APPROACHED THROUGH SOME KIND OF INFORMAL AGREEMENT FOR MAINTAINING CONTRIBUTIONS OF DONORS AT AGREED PERCENTAGES.

3. LEADER OF JORDANIAN DELEGATION MADE COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF ARAB DELEGATIONS WHOSE COUNTRIES HOST PALESTINIANS REFUGEES. THOSE DELEGATIONS JOINED BY PLO REPRESENTATIVES (FROM JORDAN SYRIA AND MAYBE EGYPT WE HEARD HAD CAUCUSED DURING PROCEEDING FEW DAYS TO DISCUSS COMGENS REPORT-PLO HOWEVER MADE NO ATTEMPT TO ENTER ADCOM MEETING ITSELF. JORDANIANS COMMENTS (A) ASKED THAT REPORT HIGHLIGHTED MORE THE ISRAELI RELATED ANTECEDENTS OF PALESTINIANS CURRENT PLIGHT IN LEBANON. (B) STATE REASONS WHY PALESTINIANS HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO EXERCISE "RIGHT OF RETURN OR COMPENSATION" AND THAT ENSUING CONDITIONS THREATENED INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 AMMAN 04662 091410Z

(C) DISCUSS IMPACT ON ISRAELI "REPRESESSON" ON WEST BANK & GAZA.
(D) PRESENT A MORE DETAILED PLAN TO DEAL WITH BUDGET SHORTAGES INCLUDING SPECIFIC PROHIBITION AGAINST FURTHER RETRENCHMENT OF UNRWA SERVICES,
(E) SOFTEN REPORTS EMPHASIS ON REDUCING UNRWA SERVICES AS RESULT OF BUDGET PROBLEM BECAUSE UNRWA MANDATE EXTENDS TO 1978(F) GIVE GREATER PROMINENCE TO RELIEF SERVICES PROVIDED BY ARAB HOST GOVERNMENTS

(G) END PRACTICE OF GIVING COPY OF DRAFT REPORT TO ISRAELI
AUTHORITIES.

4. BRITISH DELEGATIONS (UNDERS INSTRUCTIONS) OBSERVED CONTINUATION
OF UNRWA OPERATIONS ESSENTIAL TO HUMANITARIAN GROUPS AND AS CON
TRIBUTIONS TO AREAS STABILITY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FURTHER EFFORTS
ARE NEEDED TO PERSUADE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO FACE UP TO
RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNRWA CONTRIBUTIONS (ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO
HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED ANYTHING"), AND ESPECIALLY
ASKED THAT RICHER ARAB STATES SHOULD BE ASKED TO EMULATE
SAUDI ARABIA WHICH RECENTLY MADE ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
OF TEN MILLION DOLLARS. FRENCH DELEGATIONS ECHOED BRITISH POINT ABOUT
NEED TO DIRECT MORE EFFORT AT GETTING CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN LITTLE OR NOTHING. RATHER THAN
ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THOSE TO GIVE REGULARLY.
US DELEGATION REPRESENTED BY CHIEF OF POLITICAL SECTION
HOWARD K WALKER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ADMIRABLE EFFORTS
OF COMGEN AND HIS STAFF WITHIN PAST YEAR, STATED OUR SIX MILLION
DOLLAR ADDITIONAL PLEDGE INDICATES OUR
CONTINUING APPRECIATION OF VITAL IMPORTANCE OF UNRWAS CONTINUED
OPERATION AND THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK MEANS IN COOPERATION
WITH OTHER UN MEMBERS TO RESPOND ADEQUATELY AND EFFECTIVELY TO
FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF UNRWA.

5. RESPONDING TO COMMENT COMGEN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR STATEMENTS
OF COMMENDATION OF UNRWAS EFFORTS. HE SAID HE WOULD TRY TO INCORPORATE
AS MUCH AS HE COULD OF WISHES OF ARAB HOST GOVERNMENTS AS EXPRESSED
BY JORDANIANS DELEGATION BUT LEGALLY HE COULD NOT IGNORE WHAT
THEY CALLED REPORTS PREOCCUPATION WITH SEPARATION BENEFITS AS
A LIMIT ON BUDGET AND PROGRAMS.

6. ADCOM CHAIRMAN (LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN) APPOINTED COMMITTEE
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PAGE 04 AMMAN 04662 091410Z

TO DRAFT LETTER TO COMGEN GIVEN ADCOM'S VIEWS ON REPORT. FOLLOWING
DELEGATIONS APPOINTED, JORDAN SYRIA TURKEY FRANCE UK US JORDANIAN
AND SYRIAN MEMBERS PRESENTED DRAFT LETTER WHICH WAS MODIFIED
RE NEED TO EXPAND UNRWA SERVICES AND SPECIFICITY OF ARAB REQUESTS. LE
TTER
AS ACCEPTED BY FULL ADCOM AND DELIVERED TO COMGEN READS AS FOLLOWS:

9 SEPTEMBER 1976

DEAR SIR JOHN

AT ITS MEETING ON 9 SEPTEMBER 1976 THE ADVISORY COMMISSION OF
UNRWA CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE DRAFT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT
DESCRIBING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AGENCY WHICH YOU PROPOSE
TO SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION.

THE COMMISSION NOTED THAT YOU HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE REMARKS WHICH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARAB HOST COUNTRIES HAVE MADE WHEN YOU DRAFT YOUR REPORT IN FINAL FORM.

THE COMMISSION EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN FOR THE PERIODIC DEFICIT WHICH FACES THE AGENCY EVERY YEAR, AND WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THE NECESSITY OF FUNDING A SOLUTION TO THIS CHRONIC PROBLEM ON THE OCCASION OF THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THIS SOLUTION SHOULD ENABLE UNRWA TO PROVIDE THE FULL RANGE OF ITS SERVICES TO ALL THOSE ENTITLED PERSONS WHO ARE IN NEED AMONG THE PALESTINE REFUGEES TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THAT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF THESE SERVICES SHOULD NOT BE LOWERED.

THE COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL AND HIS STAFF IN THEIR PERFORMANCE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE UNRWA DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES THEY FACED DURING THE YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

YOURS SINCERELY

ABDEL RAHMAN SOLH
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PAGE 05 AMMAN 04662 091410Z

CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION
UNQTE

7. COMMENT: ADCOM MEETING WAS A FIRST FOR MEMBERS OF MOST DELEGATIONS BUT SEEMED TO FOLLOW SUBSTANCE AND TENOR OF WHAT WENT ON BEFORE WHEN MEETINGS WERE HELD IN BEIRUT. EXCEPT FOR JORDANIANS' DELEGATIONS INTERJECTION OF POLITICAL REMARKS IN PRESENTING ARAB HOST COUNTRY VIEWS OF REPORT ARAB DELEGATIONS DID NOT SEEM BENT ON MAKING BIG WAVES AT MEETING. COMGEN PRIVATELY LAMENTED ADCOM CONTINUES MOSTLY TO LISTEN AND NOT RATHER THAN TO ADVISE.

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